

general useless for irrigation purposes, but some day it may be turned to account as a great "water power." Its windings, dictated "by the singular formation of the mountain ranges (for I reject the idea of it having "carved" its channel), are almost phenomenal. After flowing south-east for a hundred miles from its source, it mates an acute bend, flows for fifty miles to the south-west, and then making another fantastic turn it flows in an exactly opposite direction to that of its earlier course, proceeding north-west to Shuster for a hundred miles.

It is calculated that the distance from the BLuh-i-Kang to Shuster as the crow flies is seventy-five miles, but the distance travelled by the waters of the Karun is 250 miles, with an aggregate fall of 9000 feet.

Besides being fed on its journey through the Bakh-tiari country by many mountain-side fountain springs of pure fresh water, as well as by salt streams and springs, it receives various tributaries, among the most important of which are the Ab-i-Bazuft and a stream which, though known locally under various names, may be called from the Chigakhor basin in which it rises the Ab-i-Chigakhor, which makes a course of ninety miles to get over a distance of twenty; the Darkash Warkash flowing in from the Chahar Mahals near Ardal, the Dinarud rising in the fair valley of Gorab, and the Ab-i-Cherri or Duab.

This mountain range, the Zard Kuh, in whose steep side at a height of over 8000 feet the Sar-i-Cheshmeh-i-Kurang wells up so grandly, is rather a

series of rock.
summits and precipices than a range of
mountains. In
late June its naked shelves and battlements
upbore great
snow-fields, and its huge rifts or passes—the
Gil-i-Shah,
nearly 11,700 feet in altitude, and the
Pambakal, 11,400
—were full of snow. But even, in four days it
melted
rapidly, and probably by August little
remains except a
few patches, in the highest and most sunless
of the rifts.